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Now I Rise (And I Darken)



Synopsis

The highly anticipated, mind-blowing New York Times bestselling sequel to Kiersten White's New York Times bestseller, *AND I DARKEN* the series that reads like HBO's *Game of Thrones* . . . if it were set in the Ottoman Empire. Fans of Victoria Aveyard's *THE RED QUEEN* and Sabaa Tahir's *A TORCH AGAINST THE NIGHT* won't want to miss this riveting and gorgeously written novel the second in the *And I Darken* series. Lada Dracul has no allies. No throne. All she has is what she's always had: herself. After failing to secure the Wallachian throne, Lada is out to punish anyone who dares to cross her blood-strewn path. Filled with a white-hot rage, she storms the countryside with her men, accompanied by her childhood friend Bogdan, terrorizing the land. But brute force isn't getting Lada what she wants. And thinking of Mehmed brings little comfort to her thorny heart. There's no time to wonder whether he still thinks about her, even loves her. She left him before he could leave her. What Lada needs is her younger brother Radu's subtlety and skill. But Mehmed has sent him to Constantinople and it's no diplomatic mission. Mehmed wants control of the city, and Radu has earned an unwanted place as a double-crossing spy behind enemy lines Radu longs for his sister's fierce confidence but for the first time in his life, he rejects her unexpected plea for help. Torn between loyalties to faith, to the Ottomans, and to Mehmed, he knows he owes Lada nothing. If she dies, he could never forgive himself but if he fails in Constantinople, will Mehmed ever forgive him? As nations fall around them, the Dracul siblings must decide: what will they sacrifice to fulfill their destinies? Empires will topple, thrones will be won . . . and souls will be lost.

"Gorgeous, rich, and rewarding." Booklist, starred review | "Absolutely devastating in the best way." Kirkus, starred review "A+, 5 knives." Amie Kaufman, New York Times bestselling co-author of the *STARBOUND* and *ILLUMINAE FILES* trilogies "Fierce, epic, and crazy fun." Melissa Albert, author of *THE HAZEL WOOD* "Kiersten White is a genius." Justine Larbalestier, author of *MY SISTER ROSA* and *LIAR* Praise for *And I Darken* "A dark jewel of a story, one that gleams with fierce, cunning characters absolutely riveting." Alexandra Bracken, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Passenger* "A dark, gritty, and seriously badass epic that will have you dying for more . . . required reading for every feminist fantasy fan." BuzzFeed "Evocative . . . this book takes no prisoners." NPR

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for *NOW I RISE*: "Gorgeous, rich, and rewarding."--Booklist, starred review | "Absolutely devastating in the best way."--Kirkus, starred review "Lush and ominous."--SLJ

Praise for *AND I DARKEN*: "A dark jewel of a story, one that gleams with fierce, cunning characters...absolutely riveting."--Alexandra Bracken, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Passenger* "Kiersten White at her absolute best. The epic story will thrill you, the Transylvanian setting will transport you, and the characters (especially the fierce, take-no-prisoners Lada) will capture your heart. Don't miss it."--Cynthia Hand, New York Times bestselling author of the *Unearthly* series "Sweeping and epic," *AND I DARKEN* is a gender-bent take on history that gives us a fierce and brutal heroine, a fascinating time period, and a beautifully intelligent look at love, family, and power. I loved every twisty, bloody moment of it!"--Rachel Hawkins, New York Times and USA Today bestselling author "As richly complex and glittering as the Ottoman Empire itself," *AND I DARKEN* is daring in its scope and brilliantly executed. The fiercely dark Lada is a razor-edged sword tempered in the blood of family betrayals and the fire of her own passions. I was instantly and utterly smitten. She haunted me long after I turned the final page and left me craving more."--Robin LaFevers, New York Times bestselling author of the *His Fair Assassin* series "A jewel of a book...a jewel embedded in the hilt of a blood-soaked sword. A brilliantly envisioned alternate history that is meticulously detailed but compulsively

readable, this is a story I could not put down. I demand the sequel like Lada demands Wallachia!

• Beth Revis, *NY Times* bestselling author of the *Across the Universe* series “An intense, risky, passionate novel that dragged me through love and danger with the force of its heroine’s heart and the power of its hero’s faith.”

• Tessa Gratton, author of the *Gods of New Asgard* series “Girls with teeth and priorities. I want to read this book forever.”

• E. K. Johnston, author of *A Thousand Nights* | “Full of sword fights, assassination plots, and palace intrigues, this novel is ambitious in scope and concept and reveals a fascinating, important, and somewhat obscure slice of history . . . the novel is breathtakingly good.”

• *School Library Journal*, *Starred review* | “White deftly weaves historical fact into this complex concoction of love, war, politics, homosexuality, religion, loyalty, and friendship.”

• *Booklist*, *Starred review* “An Best of the Month Selection”

“A dark, gritty, and seriously badass epic that will have you dying for more . . . required reading for every feminist fantasy fan.”

• *BuzzFeed* “Evocative . . . this book takes no prisoners.”

• *NPR* “An addictively readable book with a depth and richness that justifies every one of its 496 pages.”

• *The Salt Lake Tribune* “A dark, vicious book with beautiful storytelling, well-developed characters, and a fast-paced, intricate plot.”

• *Paws and Paperbacks* “Fantastic.”

• *One Page at a Time* “Dark, mesmerizing, and addictive.”

• *A Cupcake and a Latte* “Fascinating.”

• *Cracking the Cover* “A feast for the senses.”

• *Book Swoon* “The twists become gut wrenching . . . I can’t wait to see what else White has in store for us!”

• *Under the Covers* “And I Darken was incredible . . . amazing alternate history because it felt SO real . . . it’s all so complicated in the best way, sometimes loving and sometimes toxic.”

• *Gone With the Words* “Vicious and unforgiving and ruthless and oh so enthralling. Also, the FEELS.”

• *Star-Crossed Book Blog* “A jewel. . . I personally love this book to the core.”

• *When Curiosity Killed the Cat* “White does everything right. . . Fast-paced, exquisitely detailed enough to bring this familiar era to life, and with the added benefit of revisiting one of history’s most infamous warrior-rulers, there is nothing not to love in *And I Darken*. Waiting to see how the rest of Lada’s story unfolds is going to be excruciating.”

• *That’s What She Read* “A dark, twisted, savagely beautiful story almost gothic in its imagery and fearless in its storytelling. It is an

immersive experience; one I fully intend to revisit often. It's witty, at turns touching, more than occasionally funny, and unapologetically violent. . . the beginning of a journey of self-discovery, romance, angst, loyalty, betrayal, sacrifice, and war. • Shelf Envy

KIERSTEN WHITE is the New York Times bestselling author of And I Darken, Now I Rise, the Paranormalcy trilogy, the dark thrillers Mind Games and Perfect Lies, The Chaos of Stars, Illusions of Fate, and In the Shadows with Jim Di Bartolo. Her books have won several awards, including the Utah Book Award, the Evergreen Young Adult Book Award, and the Whitney Award, and have been named an ALA-YALSA Teen Top Ten Best Book, a Florida Teens Read Selection, and a Texas Lone Star Reading List Selection, among other accolades. She lives with her family near the ocean in San Diego, which, in spite of its perfection, spurs her to dream of faraway places and even further away times. • kierstenwhite.com • @kierstenwhite on Twitter

I am really enjoying this series. The characters are so rich and their paths are at times inspiring, depressing, hopeless, and life changing. It is great how all three were so close and now all three are so far apart. Radu is the most fascinating as he has really changed fundamentally more than the other two. I look forward to more!!

NOW I RISE is the epic and gripping and action-packed sequel in this already amazing series that reimagines the history of Vlad the Impaler in a most original way. Filled to the brim with bloody battles, political maneuvering, difficult choices, devastating losses, and crushing betrayal, it is an enthralling and intense and unputdownable read. It is not a story for the faint of heart. It blurs the lines between good and evil, right and wrong, heroes and villains. It confronts head-on a number of tough subjects - religion, equality, sexual orientation, assault. It shows that sometimes the only way to a better future is through violence, manipulation, sacrifice. But it also shows what choosing this path costs. Lada did not regret her choice to leave Mehmed in order to attempt to take back her Wallachia. Being a part of the sultan's harem was not an option. Constantinople was not her dream. She had to pursue her own goals, even if it meant doing so without him by her side and without her brother Radu, whose skills would have been an asset in her quest to become prince. However much she missed them both, she would not be distracted from what she desired most. And even without Radu's gift for diplomacy, she was determined to reclaim her land, by whatever violent means necessary. With Lada out of the way, Radu hoped that Mehmed

would finally see how he felt and would return his affections. But his use as a spy meant first distancing himself from his sultan and then leaving for Constantinople. The danger would be great, but his loyalty to and love for Mehmed made it worth the risk. Though with every day that passed, he was less certain of the righteousness, effectiveness, and goodness of his own actions. He was less clear about his relationship with Mehmed. He was less confident about who his enemies really were. Kiersten White did a masterful job with this second book in the series. It does not suffer from middle book syndrome in the least. It is even more riveting than its predecessor, even more thought-provoking, even more exciting. Alternating between Lada and Radu's points of view allows for even more action, suspense, tension. It emphasizes the differences between Lada's ruthless and almost remorseless approach to achieving her objectives and Radu's more balanced but conflicted approach toward reaching his. There is no shortage of bloodshed, pride, or greed. There is no room for weakness. There are no simple solutions. There is heartbreak, defeat, devotion, faith, and undying love. All of which make *NOW I RISE* a significant and extraordinary and incredibly memorable must-read.

Last year I had the opportunity to review *And I Darken* early. And I loved it. It became one of my absolute favorite reads of 2016! And then the next year was slow, slow torture as I waited for book two. But then, luckily, I got to read it early as well! In February. And the next year will again be torturous. *Now I Rise* picks up very shortly after *And I Darken* ends, with Lada on the way back to Wallachia, where she intends to claim the throne, wreaking amazing havoc and attempting to pick up allies on the way. Lada was an incredibly strong character who I almost instantly fell in love with in the first book in this series, and I was not disappointed in her here! She makes no apologies on her way to accomplish her goals or for her means to that end. Is she brutal? Absolutely! And I loved every single sentence I read about her story. I loved watching the relationships between Lada and Bogdan, Mehmed, and Hunyadi evolve. Honestly, I could go on and on about my love for Lada, but now I have to rave about another character. Radu. Oh, Radu's story was every bit as incredible as Lada's! At first, I wasn't too sure about the dual points of view once Lada and Radu went their separate ways, then I found myself completely loving each. My only complaint is that I wish I'd gotten a full book from each of them - a chapter here and there wasn't enough! Radu's story takes an unexpected turn in this book, with him heading to Constantinople on behalf of Mehmed and his ultimate goal of taking the city for his own. New characters and old are present as are new and old romances, all of which were incredible! Radu really came into his own in *Now I Rise*, accepting himself as he attempted to take control of his circumstances. I have always been able to sympathize

with Radu, but this time he broke my heart a time or two. I've mentioned that there were quite a few secondary characters important to the story, both new and old. My opinion of Mehmed definitely changed a lot during this book, although I was already on the fence with him in *And I Darken*. He really did keep me on an emotional roller coaster. I ended up feeling a lot of feelings I did not expect for Hunyadi! And Radu's companions in Constantinople... I'd need pages to tell you of my love for them. I have such high hopes for that storyline in the next book! As you may have gathered, I absolutely adored this story. Each main character went in a totally different direction, but I adored how their stories played out and intertwined. Everything tied back to the first book and nothing was randomly thrown in as filler, which seems to happen in second books. Speaking of, this book never seemed to suffer from second book syndrome. There was strategic planning and awesome battles on both ends and I was always on the edge of my seat. I loved the intricacies of the battle between the Christians and Muslims and am certainly more interested now to learn more about that history. I can definitely see myself reading this series over and over! This book spanned many vastly different locations, and all of the settings were incredibly well written. Even now I can clearly picture Wallachia, Constantinople, and everything in between. Kiersten White really has a way of writing that makes me feel like I'm actually in the action and can see everything as it happens!! I really cannot say enough good things about *Now I Rise*! I've already said I wasn't sure I'd love it as much as *And I Darken* with Radu and Lada on different paths, but it exceeded all of my expectations and left me with a serious book hangover. I am crossing all of my fingers and toes for an ARC of the next book and hoping I survive that long! If you love historical fiction and badass characters, this is definitely a series you don't want to miss!

Birthday gifts to my daughter> My daughter is really happy to see it arrive so quick and will enjoy it!

Amazing! Can't wait for the next one!

I read the first book again in anticipation of the release of this book, and I'm glad I did! The character development of Lada and Radu is both beautiful and disconcerting. Can't wait for the next book!!

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